

IOWA COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Wednesday, April 4, 2012 - 10:00 a.m.

Malloy Leisure Resource Center

Malloy Building

Iowa Veterans Home

Marshalltown, Iowa

PRESENT: Todd Jacobus, Chairperson, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs
Becky Dirks Haugsted, Member, Commission of Veterans Affairs
Dan Gannon, Member, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs
Francis McAllister, Member, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs
Darlene McMartin, Member, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs
Kate Myers, Member, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs
Larry Spencer, Member, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs
Bill Wallace, Member, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs
Mickey Williams, Member, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs


EXCUSED: None

STAFF: Jodi Tymeson, Executive Director, Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs
Nancy Morford, Admin. Assist., Support Services, Iowa Veterans Home – Meeting Secretary
Mike Hines, Admin. Assist., Commandant's Office, Iowa Veterans Home
David Worley, Commandant, Iowa Veterans Home

GUESTS: Richard Bullock, The American Legion, Dept. of Iowa
Paul Freeman, MOPH, Chapter 777, Des Moines
Dave Thornburg, Iowa Veterans Council
Jon Wille, DAV
Brent Paulsen, Iowa DOT
Kristin Haar, Iowa DOT
Mitch Holmes, Cass County Veterans Affairs
Dave Bolton, DAV
Brett McLain, Story County Veterans Affairs
Mike Kuhn, Marion County Veterans Affairs
John Hintz, Fayette County Veterans Affairs
Jennifer Furler, State Public Policy Group
John Bowler, resident, Iowa Veterans Home
Arlinda McKeen, State Public Policy Group

cc: Jeff Boeying, Chief of Staff, Governor's Office
Ted Stopulos, Policy Advisor, Governor's Office
Barbara Galloway, Assistant Attorney, Attorney General's Office
Sandra Hurtado-Peters, Department of Management
Sue Lerdal, Legislative Fiscal Bureau
Jenny Lawrence, Auditor's Office
Jessica Holmes, DAS
Steve Ainger, DAS
David Worley, Commandant, IVH
Nancy Morford, Administrative Assistant, IVH
John Derner, Adjutant, The American Legion
Senator Daryl Beall, Chair, Senate VA Committee
Senator James Seymour, RM, Senate VA Committee
David Davis, Director, VA Regional Office
Elizabeth Ledvina, President, IACCVA
Jerry Meek, Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart
Tom Ashworth, Senate Republican Caucus Staff
Julie Simon, Senate Democratic Caucus Staff
Jill Jennings, House Republican Caucus Staff
Reggie Richardson, President, The Retired Officers Association
Larry Jatho, Adjutant, Disabled American Veterans
Barry Sharp, Director, VACIHCS, Iowa City
Don Cooper, Director, VACIHCS, Des Moines
Ron Healy, Iowa UAW Veterans Committee
Jon Schneider, President, Paralyzed Veterans of America
Representative Jerry Kearns, RM, House VA Committee

NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE "UNAPPROVED" UNTIL ACCEPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT THE NEXT MEETING

APPROVED:  DATE: 11 Jul 2012

Todd Jacobus, Chairperson, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by Todd Jacobus, Chairperson, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs.

Pledge of Allegiance/
Moment of Silence: All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairperson Jacobus stated that before our moment of silence, he wanted to read something of significance because it took place on April 4. He read, "On April 4, 2005, President George W. Bush presented the Medal of Honor in a White House ceremony to the family of Sergeant First Class Paul R. Smith for his performance of duty while serving with Company B 11th Engineer Battalion. The narration reads, 'Presented to Paul R. Smith, Sergeant First Class, United States Army, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty: Sergeant First Class Paul R. Smith distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with an armed enemy near Baghdad International Airport, Baghdad, Iraq, on 4 April 2003. On that day, Sergeant First Class Smith was engaged in the construction of a prisoner of war holding area when his Task Force was violently attacked by a company-sized enemy force. Realizing the vulnerability of over 100 fellow soldiers, Sergeant First Class Smith quickly organized a hasty defense consisting of two platoons of soldiers, one Bradley Fighting Vehicle and three armored personnel carriers. As the fight developed, Sergeant First Class Smith braved hostile enemy fire to personally engage the enemy with hand grenades and anti-tank weapons, and organized the evacuation of three wounded soldiers from an armored personnel carrier struck by a rocket propelled grenade and a 60mm mortar round. Fearing the enemy would overrun their defenses, Sergeant First Class Smith moved under withering enemy fire to man a .50 caliber machine gun mounted on a damaged armored personnel carrier. In total disregard for his own life, he maintained his exposed position in order to engage the attacking enemy force. During this action, he was mortally wounded. His courageous actions helped defeat the enemy attack, and resulted in as many as 50 enemy soldiers killed, while allowing the safe withdrawal of numerous wounded soldiers. Sergeant First Class Smith's extraordinary heroism and uncommon valor are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Third Infantry Division, "Rock of the Marne," and the United States Army." That happened on April 4, 2003.

Chairman Jacobus continued, "During this April 4, 2005, ceremony, President Bush stated, 'Like every one of the men and women in uniform who have served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Sergeant First Class Paul Smith was a volunteer. We thank his family for the father, husband and son and brother who can never be replaced. We recall with appreciation the fellow Soldiers whose lives he saved, and the many more he inspired. And, we express our gratitude for a new generation of Americans, every bit as selfless and dedicated to liberty as any that has gone on before – A dedication exemplified by the sacrifice and valor of Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith.'"

At this time, we'd like to observe a moment of silence for our departed veterans, POW's, those missing in action (MIAs) and those on active duty at this time.

Roll Call: Roll call of Commission members was completed by the Meeting Secretary. A quorum was present.

Welcome/Intro. of Guests: Chairperson Jacobus welcomed everyone in attendance. Todd introduced Dr. Bill Schaefer. He is a retired professor from Grand View University. Dr. Schaefer completed a project where he captured the photographs of Clark County veterans of WWII and will have those on display in a variety of locations on the first of May, including the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum. Dr. Schaefer is also working on a project where he is photographing notable Iowa veterans, and can use some help from our veterans community in identifying those citizens in our communities who are notable for their service who are also veterans of the United States Armed Forces. He came to the Iowa Veterans Home to meet with the oldest veteran in Iowa who will be 106 in July. Chairperson Jacobus thanked Dr. Schaefer for doing these projects for veterans. Bill commented he has already photographed two people who are here today—Commissioner Larry Spencer and Jodi Tymeson have been part of this project. His book of pictures of the local veterans will be on display today for people to look at.

A round table of introductions was held.

Approval of Minutes: Corrections/additions/deletions to the minutes of the 1/11/12 meeting were called for. Commissioner Gammon moved to approve the 1/11/12 minutes with no changes. Second by Commissioner Wallace. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote was not taken. Approved unanimously. Minutes of 1/11/12 meeting approved.

Corrections/additions/deletions to the minutes of the 1/26/12 conference call were called for. Commissioner Myers moved to approve the 1/26/12 minutes as distributed. Second by Commissioner McMartin. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote was not taken. Approved unanimously. Minutes of conference call of 1/26/12 approved.

Corrections/additions/deletions to the minutes of the 3/1/12 conference call were called for. Commissioner Wallace moved to approve the 3/1/12 minutes as distributed. Second by Commissioner Spencer. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote was not taken. Approved unanimously. Minutes of conference call of 3/1/12 approved.

Corrections/additions/deletions to the minutes of the 3/7/12 conference call were called for. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the 3/7/12 minutes as distributed. Second by Commissioner Gannon. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote was not taken. Approved unanimously. Minutes of conference call of 3/7/12 approved.

VA Regional Office
Update: No one was present. No report.

VA Medical Centers
Update: No one was present. No report.

Iowa Veterans Home
Update: Commandant David Worley gave the report for the Iowa Veterans Home. The Iowa Veterans Home will be participating in a veterans parade on June 30, 2012.

We finished construction on the new buildings. We contacted the VA on February 14 and moved 21 residents to the Fox building which is the new building on the east side. The VA came and completed their survey. Survey is another word for inspection. That gave us the ability to fully occupy the new buildings. On March 13 we moved 39 more residents into Fox. That filled the Fox building with a total of 60 residents. On March 20 we moved 45 residents into Ulery. The Ulery building has some level of security, so we moved our unit from Malloy 4 South, which was the secured unit, into Households 6, 7 and 8. We will see how that operation goes for a while. We have learned a lot. Wednesday, March 28, we held a ribbon cutting ceremony. The Commandant thanked everyone who was there. We weren't able to open it up to the public. We just don't have the infrastructure here. We are a fully operational facility. How would we get a lot of the veterans who would need assistance here, that live in the community? So we are offering people to come and tour. If you are aware of any people who want to come and tour, they need to let us know that now because these households here are built under a different model. We are still going to offer tours to people who want to bring their families here, tours to big groups and to the public. You don't want anybody walking through and tour your house. This is their home, even with the units here, we take people down the hallways. But we are going to change that whole environment of how we do tours because this is their home. This is where they live. So they'll be hearing me in the traditional facility. You know they have to go down the hallway to take a shower so do you want to walk down the hallway in a robe to take a shower and there are five strangers standing there looking at you. So we're looking at how to address all of that, but at the same time, we're a public entity and you are taxpayers. Your tax dollars pay our salaries and help us operate, so we have to figure out how we can meet the needs of everybody. So that's going to be a struggle. But if any organizations out there or any groups want to tour the new buildings, we need to do that before April 15. That's what we're doing.

For the surveys, this is our bible (held up standards book). This is what we use to operate the Iowa Veterans Home, or any long-term care facility. There are 192 standards in this book and this is what the state and the federal government under CMS uses to inspect us. 158 of these standards are what the VA uses to inspect us. It's very intense. We are the second or third most regulated industry in the country. We are highly regulated by the state and we are highly regulated by the VA. To be able to occupy the new buildings, the VA had to complete survey that was totally deficiency free. On March 9, the VA completed their survey. We passed with a deficiency-free survey. Thanks to everybody that works at the Iowa Veterans Home. They've all done an amazing job. Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA), who surveys us from the state will be here soon for their annual survey.

We provide quality services at the Iowa Veterans Home that doesn't happen in any other long-term care facility. If you've ever been to another long-term care facility, I will tell you there are plenty of great facilities out there in the local communities all over this state and all over this country, but the Iowa Veterans Home is the largest long-term care facility in the State of Iowa and we're the second largest in the country and it's an amazing mission.

Chairperson Jacobus commented that the new buildings are just incredible and beautiful. It says a lot about the whole team effort to get there.

We are moving forward with construction. We are going to renovate Malloy and Dack buildings so they are all single rooms. When I first got here, and even when I interviewed with the Governor, Governor Branstad and Lt. Governor, I requested strongly that we change the path of the construction that was going on at the Veterans Home so we can create a plan for all of the veterans. All the residents of the Iowa Veterans Home will be in single rooms at some point in the future. We changed the whole huge process of a lot of the construction that was planned and we listened to the community about certain things, but the goal was that every veteran or every resident of the Iowa Veterans Home would be in a single room. We are going to totally renovate the Dack and Malloy buildings. All of those will become single rooms with bathrooms. Most of our residents today live in two people rooms and those two people share a toilet and sink and they have to walk down the hallway to take a shower or a bath. That's not great living conditions. These veterans and their spouses are in their final stages of life where they are at their most vulnerable. So we should create an environment that's suitable for them. We hope to start construction on that. It will take about a year to get the design done. The money has been approved by the Federal government. We get great support from the Legislators. We are moving forward with that design and hopefully in about three and one-half years we will have that renovation completed. We are also going to build 72 additional beds on the west side of the property. When you talk about taking two rooms and making

them one room, everybody thinks that cuts your census in half. That's not what we're doing. We currently today have 504 long-term care nursing residents at the Iowa Veterans Home and we have 105 in our residential care. When we are done, we will have 525, maybe 520, 530, nursing care rooms. All of those rooms will be single rooms. At the same time we will develop some of those rooms into couple rooms so the couples will be able to live together. So we will have the ability to take care of more residents than we have today. We are admitting residents into our nursing care as quick as they can get here. There is no waiting list for nursing.

We have not frozen hiring. We are one of the state agencies that is actually running our budget relatively good. We get a lot of support from the Governor's Office. We get a lot of support from our local Legislators from both the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees.

Chairperson Jacobus asked the Commandant to review again what the capacity will be after all of the construction is completed. The Commandant explained there are two sets of languages and two levels of care. The two different languages are the VA has nursing and domiciliary levels of care. The state has nursing and residential levels of care. We are licensed for 575 long-term nursing care beds and 113 residential care beds. The Commandant was not sure, but should be enough beds for somewhere between 520 and 530 nursing care residents.

Commandant Worley explained he will be trying to create a dual diagnosis program at the Iowa Veterans Home. Veterans who have a dual diagnosis may be dealing with PTSD and maybe some substance abuse issues. They have two diagnosis. Neither State nor Federal regulations allow us to admit veterans with dual diagnosis unless they have some type of nursing care issues. Senator Soddors introduced a Post Traumatic Stress Dual Diagnosis bill in the Senate. The bill is, "An Act Requiring a Study and Report on the Establishment of a Dual Diagnosis Treatment Program for Post Traumatic Stress at the Iowa Veterans Home." The Commandant will do a study to find possible funding sources, evaluate program structure, program requirements and the need for a treatment program for veterans in Iowa. It will focus on the establishment of a dual diagnosis program for individuals seeking treatment for service-connected post-traumatic stress disorder and substance abuse. Currently, there is no dual diagnosis program for veterans in the State of Iowa. The Commandant stated he wants to create a small project of 8, 10, maybe 12 men. The services that we provide for our residents at IVH are very good. Commandant stated he has a passion for this because he is a former substance abuse counselor and he knows one of the things we do not do here is follow-ups.

In regard to Chairperson Jacobus's question whether it is a VA or a state program, Commandant explained it would be IVH doing this study. We may have to set aside ten beds that would not be licensed as either nursing or domiciliary and

we would not be compensated by the VA. We will have to figure out how to charge the veteran. This will all be figured out during the study he will be conducting.

Iowa Department of
Veterans Affairs
Update:

Jodi Tymeson, Executive Director, Department of Veterans Affairs, gave the report. She thanked the Chairman. For the Iowa Veterans Cemetery, we will be taking action later today under new business to approve a monument. Several of the veteran organizations have monuments at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery. The Legion is going to dedicate their monument on May 5 at 2 p.m. The VFW, if their monument is approved, will hope to have that installed by Veterans Day and have their dedication after our 8 a.m. services in the morning on Veterans Day.

Cemetery internments, as of yesterday, total 1,101 internments since we opened, 919 of those are veterans and 182 dependents. We would like you to pre-apply at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery if you are eligible. We have a very simple application process. On the website, there is a one-page application plus the veteran's discharge and the marriage certificate. We are going to be reviewing this at our county director's school.

Veterans buried in the Iowa Veterans Cemetery are from 32 states. We have 6,340 applications on file. These are people who have sent the application for pre-determination of eligibility. Eligibility is based on federal eligibility criteria.

We are working on plans to build another set of Columbarium walls and putting some single grave liners in section 6. DAS (Department of Administrative Services) is in process to have a product to me by the first of June to give us an estimate on how much we need to ask for the Federal Grant and the process. The Legislature did approve a bill to allow us to use the Trust Fund for cash flow. The Trust Fund will not be decreased because the Federal Grant is 100 percent. It is simply a matter of being able to pay the bills until we draw down the Federal money, then it will all be repaid.

Memorial Day program is 8 a.m. at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery. Currently the Governor is scheduled to be our speaker.

Jodi explained companies are sending out postcards that are misleading to our veterans. They indicate if they purchase a casket that they are eligible for free burial in the cemetery. That is completely wrong.

The American Legion monument will be dedicated Saturday, May 5, at 2 p.m. For the VFW, their goal is to have their monument in place by Veterans Day and hold their dedication ceremony at that point in time.

Chairperson Jacobus asked whether the person running the cemetery is still on active duty? Jodi explained there has not been a director since November of 2009. The cemetery representative has been gone since January and will not be back until November. Jodi is handling services at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery, which gives her a chance to work with the families.

Chairperson Jacobus asked if there was a plan to replace the director? Jodi indicated no, unless the Legislature provides money in the budget. The director at the time made the decision based on the budget cuts what positions would go and the cemetery director position was eliminated. A different budget cut eliminated the executive officer/legislative liaison position. The Cemetery currently has three employees outside and two employees inside. Our staff up there really do a great job. Chairperson Jacobus relayed that he has heard so many positive comments. Jodi reiterated that they do a great job.

In response to a question regarding rust in the water, Jodi explained that last summer we put a peristaltic pump next to the irrigation system that extracts a chemical into the irrigation system that is supposed to keep the iron from adhering to the headstones. It was towards the end of the irrigation season when we finally got it going. It was about \$1,000 and we got someone to install it that we trust. We do have to continue to buy chemicals to inject and then we have a chemical we can spray the headstones which will not damage the headstone. It is sprayed on then simply rinsed off so it doesn't require any scrubbing. We do have some volunteers that help us clean the headstones.

In response to Commissioner Dirks Haugsted's question of whether Jodi has a lot of volunteers to help, Jodi replied there are some volunteers from Knights of Columbus from West Des Moines that helps them mow. Members of the Van Meter American Legion and the Boy Scouts help put up and take down flags for Memorial Day and Veterans Day. There are a few other people who drop by and say they would like to volunteer. We get as much use as we can from volunteers.

Because there is a problem with the amount of interest the Trust Fund earns, there is a bill that went through the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, then went to Senate Appropriations and has been there since February 8, that will allow appropriation from the Trust Fund to the spendable so we can cover and clean up our backlog. Then it will allow the first \$300,000 of Lottery proceeds to be deposited into the spendable account. That will probably be a July deposit so every year in July, we will know how much money for the year for the Trust Fund applications. Then we will continue to be able to use the interest.

There is an income tax check-off for a couple of different things. The chickadee check-off, the corn dog check-off and the Veterans Trust Fund/Fire Fighters check-off. A notice was received from the Department of Revenue that since the Veterans Trust Fund/Fire Fighters check-off was the lowest one getting checked off, it was probably going to drop off the income tax form. But the Legislature is now moving a bill that would keep that check-off on the income tax form. I will keep you apprised as to what actually happens in the Legislature. In response to how much is received from this check-off, Jodi indicated it is about \$20,000 a year.

Included in your packet of information is a copy of the Administrative Rules changes for several programs under the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs. Jodi reviewed these changes. Those will be effective May 9.

Jodi also included a copy of the legislative update she sends out every Friday. She briefly reviewed that legislation.

Jodi briefed Commission Members on the Department of Veterans Affairs' archiving system. We have what's called ScanTrax. We scan DD214's into the system. We archive them and they are indexed so they can be retrieved later. That system was beginning to die a few years ago. The State of Iowa paid \$18,000 for a new system, but we had not received the product when I came on board in January 2011. Since then we have been working with the vendor to provide us with a product that we have already paid for. The product is a virtual veteran. When you scan in a DD214, it allows you to start a claim for a veteran and it populates all of the forms. That's really not what we need. We need an archive and retrieval system. We only have three service officers. We don't need an \$18,000 software system for three service officers and there's no way for the counties to use the system. So the vendor is going to authorize a virtual vault system which is more of an archive and retrieval system which is what we need.

Jodi explained Learfield Sports has gotten back to her asking if we have any interest in advertising.

The SPPG contract is in place.

Jodi indicated there are only 8 boxes of Quickbooks left out of the 25,000 that was ordered. Think about how many should be ordered next time and if any changes need to be made.

April 24, 25 and 26 is the Spring School of Instruction. County Commissioners and Directors will be all together on the first day, then Directors/Administrators the second two days. We have a full schedule.

May 7 at noon is Vietnam Veterans Day ceremony at the Capitol. Sheriff Bill McCarthy will be the guest speaker who is a Vietnam veteran. May 28 is the Memorial Day program at 8:00 a.m. at the Veterans Cemetery. There is also an 11 a.m. ceremony at the Vets Center.

June 30 is the big Veterans Parade. More information to follow.

August 13 is Veterans Day parade at the State Fair.

Chairperson Jacobus received information this morning on the June 30 parade from Colonel Bob King who is retired Iowa National Guard and former Public Affairs Officer. The parade will be on June 30 and it will start at 10:00 a.m. at the Capitol. It will end at Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Auditorium. He is working directly with the Governor's Office on the rest of the plan.

It was announced the Gold Star Museum will also be open on Monday, May 28, for Memorial Day. Van and Bonnie will broadcast from 4:59 a.m. until 9 a.m.

Meeting Break: Meeting break from 12:00 p.m. until 12:22 p.m.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Chairperson Jacobus handed out three brochures from the Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee. Sandra VanDerPol was unable to be here today. She asked him to announce the Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee meets on the second Thursday of the month. The dates will be included in the veterans event listing he sends out. She presented information at the Commission Meeting six months ago. She asked him to announce that if there is any service organization that has something to offer veterans, she would like a representative from that organization to attend the meetings. They are held quarterly. They combine all of the resources that are out there so if someone, either a veteran, current service member or a family member, comes to her with an issue or problem, she can lead them in the right direction. She has an office at Camp Dodge with a very small staff and a very small budget. The next meeting is scheduled for May 7.

SPPG: Jennifer Furler gave an update on the Veterans Mental Health Task Force. She thanked the Commission for the opportunity to share some information and update the Commission on their work. The current contract was signed on

March 15. The handout you have is a monthly summary. This will be the format that we report to you monthly in terms of the progress we have made in the key contracted areas. Jennifer introduced her colleague, Arlinda McKeen.

Jennifer explained the focus is to make sure the Commission is represented at key state initiatives in the area of mental health. SPPG attended a work group meeting convened by the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) on March 9. Commissioner Gannon was also in attendance. This work group was formed as part of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Military Families strategic Initiative Service Systems Development Program. The SAMHSA program works with states to strengthen behavioral health care systems through the provision of technical assistance and the promotion of ongoing interagency collaboration. SAMHSA is convening an inter-agency collaboration at the state level with different departments and stakeholders who have an interest in veterans, service members and families and learning how we coordinate and communicate better to address issues. Some of the focus will be on military cultural training and mapping services statewide.

SPPG participated in the fourth meeting of a group consisting of IDVA, ICVA, State Library of Iowa and West Des Moines Public Library to explore how best to help public libraries provide services to veterans and for ICVA to advance outreach to veterans. SPPG's participation in the meeting assumes that mental health services may be part of the discussion and benefits that may emerge from these relationships.

Chairperson Jacobus, Jill Joseph and Arlinda attended the fourth meeting with the State Library of Iowa. Chairperson Jacobus briefed attendees on what some libraries are already doing to help veterans and what more they can do in our outreach efforts. County directors and librarians need to work together and can provide a multitude of ways for veterans to get the help they need. He will address this issue with the county directors at the Spring School of Instruction.

Commissioner Dirks Haugsted noted the Anamosa Library has a rack dedicated to veterans' materials. They have a computer dedicated for the veteran. That computer is not lent out until the last possible minute so that if a veteran wants to use it, it's there. They have our VA director, Susan, her picture right there with her name and phone number.

Jennifer commented their team is really excited to continue working with the Commission and they appreciate the opportunity.

Chairperson Jacobus thanked Jennifer for her report.

Chairperson Jacobus explained he asked Mari Mielke to add Kevin Gabbert from the Iowa Department of Public Health – Mental Health discussion to the agenda before he actually got a hold of him. He was not able to contact him. He will contact Kevin and ask him to come to our July meeting.

Chairperson Jacobus introduced Brent Paulsen, DOT, Veterans Transportation Community Living Initiative.

Brent Paulsen and Kristin Haar were in attendance to make a request. Kristin introduced herself. She is also with the Iowa DOT, Office of Public Transit. She is originally from Marshalltown so she knows many of the residents and she went to school here.

We are here today to talk to you about a couple of different things. The Office of Public Transit is under the Iowa DOT, which is where we work. The entire state is covered by Public Transit Agency. Every county has some form of public transit available to Iowa residents, not just in urban areas, it's in the rural areas as well. Kristin passed out a map that shows the transit regions. There are 16 regions and 19 urban systems in the state with varying degrees of service, depending on the amount of funding available. Every county is covered. We work with all of those agencies. It is our charge in the Office of Public Transit and with those 35 public transit agencies to coordinate transportation as much as possible in the State of Iowa. She passed out a second handout.

They are here to make a couple of requests and they don't cost anything so are not asking for any money, just support. We want to apply for the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative grant that is available through the Federal Transit Administration. It was announced in the February 7, 2012, Federal Register and the grant is due April 19. We believe strongly that this is an area that we need to be focusing on. We are here today with only 12 days to complete and submit this grant. We do believe strongly we need to coordinate with veteran groups now and in the future.

This grant specifically funds one-call/one-click centers for providing one place to connect veterans, service members, military families, persons with disabilities and other transportation-disadvantaged populations, such as older adults, low-income families or disadvantaged youth, to rides and transportation options provided in their locality by a variety of transportation providers and programs. The grant is very specific as to what it can fund. It cannot fund operating to create a transportation program. It cannot fund infrastructure or anything like that, but it does fund one-call/one-click which means website and call-center-type activities.

There are currently three separate databases containing information about resources and transportation options available to the aging, disabled and United Way communities, respectively. All of these databases have websites and telephone numbers associated with them but not all information is compiled in one coordinated, non-duplicated location. Each of those databases might have the same information repeated three times, but it's not all in one spot. To our knowledge, a database of information such as that does not currently exist for veterans programs in the State of Iowa.

What we propose to do with this grant is to survey providers of veteran transportation in Iowa to create a fourth database of those transportation resources. Next we would combine all four databases: aging, disabled, United Way and veterans into one comprehensive information and referral database. We will create a website and telephone number and potential cell phone application for any Iowan, Human Service agency, social worker or mobility manager to utilize in order to access services needed. The way that website would work would be, there would be a series of roll-downs that you can select different options, so first for your constituents, you would select that you are a veteran and if there are different qualifications that they would need to meet in order to use that service, they would drill down in the database on that website to find services that are available for their particular need. And also persons who are age 60 and above, the aging community, can do that, those who are disabled can do that. General public can do that as well because our public transit providers will be in the database.

We are proposing to put all of that information into one spot so that if someone should go to a social worker and is a veteran and/or disabled and/or over 60, then that social worker can help them find resources that are available to them specifically. That would all be in one location.

The grant will also be used to develop a ride matching software for pairing carpoolers and vanpoolers with similar origins and destinations. That is for anyone who just needs to get to work.

Again, we are not asking for funding. We are asking for letters of support from your respective organizations. Kristin offered to draft a letter of support that can be tailored to your organization. Her contact information is on the back of the handout.

Kristin also asked that if they are funded and when a survey is released, she would appreciate you encouraging your constituents to fill out a survey so we can get a comprehensible list of possible participants.

Kristin also commented that they are asking for representatives to serve on their grant advisory group, which will first meet on April 12, next Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in Ames at the DOT. DAV and VFW were specifically mentioned in the Federal Register, so would like representatives from those groups. Would also like one to two county representatives. They would also encourage representatives from other veteran organizations also. This advisory group will also include representatives from Area Aging, 211 and transit agencies.

If funded, we will be happy to return to this Commission to give updates on the project's progress.

Commissioner McMartin made a motion to have Chairperson Jacobus draft a letter of support for the DOT to receive a grant to get this initiative up and running. Second by Commissioner Gannon. There was no further discussion. Vote taken; motion approved unanimously.

Kristin stated she is also the chair of the Iowa Transportation Coordination Council. That Council consists of persons from Department of Public Health, United Way of Iowa and state level human service agencies. Transportation coordination issues around the state are discussed. She invited the Commission to appoint a member to that board. They meet every other month on the second Wednesday of the month in the Des Moines area at 10:00 a.m. It is about a four hour meeting and lunch is provided.

Chairperson Jacobus thanked Kristin and Brent for attending today.

Chairperson Jacobus stated that the Commandant will be here to discuss the easement, but he had to leave to do an Exit Interview with Dept. of Inspections and Appeals. We will go to the next agenda item and come back to that.

VFW Monument:

Jodi passed out a copy of "Request for Approval to Donate Monument to Iowa Veterans Cemetery" from the VFW. The form was filled out correctly by the VFW. One issue was the height of the monument. Jodi was reassured the height will be no more than 65 inches. The monument will be built by the same company that made the other monuments so it will not be any taller than the DAV one. It will be black granite. They have answered all of the other questions. It is within the guidelines of the monument policy. There is a sketch of what the monument will look like with the service seals and the VFW emblem. The height does include the base.

Discussion followed on whether the Commission needs to become involved in the decisions of the monuments. After further discussion, it was determined that approval of the monuments can be completed during the Trust Fund conference calls.

Commissioner Dirks Haugsted made a motion to approve the VFW monument. Second by Commissioner McMartin. There was no further discussion. Vote taken; motion approved unanimously.

Chairperson Jacobus had hoped Ed McGivern would be here today. He ran into Ed at the last Iowa Veterans Council Meeting and he brought with him a newspaper from the American Legion, the Voice of the Legion. It was about the establishment of the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs. He took a photograph of the picture of the newspaper. This is the 20th year of the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs. 27th of April, 1992, is when Governor Branstad signed the legislation that established the Commission. There was a write up in the American Legion newspaper about that.

Public Comment: Commissioner Francis McAllister commented that he has enjoyed his time on the Commission and will miss being a part of it. This will be his last meeting. A certificate was presented to Commissioner McAllister at this time. Chairperson Jacobus read, "State of Iowa, Department of Veterans Affairs Certificate of Appreciation to Francis McAllister, representing Disabled American Veterans, for your dedicated service on the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs from May 1, 2008, through April 30, 2012." Signed by myself and Jodi, Executive Director.

IVH Easement: Commandant Worley explained the City of Marshalltown has planned to renovate 13th Street. Summit and 13th Street connect in front of the Veterans Home. About 25-30 years ago, there used to be a huge community down there and they had all kinds of activities and stores. They are now trying to renovate 13th Street. One of the problems is the river runs underneath the street and it floods pretty bad on the roads. They need to do some cleanup work and they need an easement to do that work on our property. The property is owned by the State of Iowa, which is controlled by the Department of Administrative Services. Since the Commission has oversight over the Veterans Home, we need your full support of this. They offered to pay us \$1,500 for the easement, but the Commandant thought that was unnecessary. The city should not have to pay us for the easement. They just need permission for the easement so they can go in there and do the work. They've already done the survey work. The Commandant asked for approval to give them permission to do the work, then Department of Administrative Services has to go to a legislative oversight committee for property to get approval.

Commissioner McAllister made a motion to approve the easement for 13th Street. Second by Commissioner Myers. Discussion about putting that money into either the Trust Fund or IVH Memorial Account. Commandant stated if the city

paid IVH that money, it would have to go into the General Fund. He may ask them to give \$750 to the Trust Fund and \$750 to IVH Memorial fund. There was no further discussion. Vote taken; motion approved unanimously.

Commandant announced that RAGBRAI is coming through the City of Marshalltown this year. The last time they came through, there were many people who camped on IVH grounds. He has been contacted by a couple of small groups this year. He does not want to open it up to everybody because that could create some issues. But we do have some land on the west side for a couple of small groups to camp. He is trying to contact some veteran-related groups. They are staying here on Wednesday night. They are coming from Webster City to here, then from here to Cedar Rapids.

Next Meeting: The next Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs meeting will be held Wednesday, July 11, 2012, 10:00 a.m., Camp Dodge, Johnston, Iowa.

ADJOURNMENT: With no other business to come before the group, the meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

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comm mtg